

## “Options for Relative Caregivers”

Relative Caregiver Program (Informal Care) Existing	Families First Kinship Care (Informal Care) Pilot Program	Kinship Foster Care (Formal Care) Existing	Subsidized Guardianship (Formal Care) Implementation Phase
Public-Private Partnership between DCS and community-based agencies.	Partnership between DCS and DHS.	Administered by formal child welfare system - DCS.	Administered by DCS through a IV-E Waiver as a federal demonstration project.
<b>Goal:</b> To support children in the care of relatives outside the formal child welfare system when appropriate and support effort to prevent entry and re-entry into foster care.	<b>Goal:</b> To aid in preventing children who are at-risk of entering state custody from experiencing custodial episodes by supporting them in the care of relatives who could not do so without financial assistance.	<b>Goal:</b> To support children and families by placing children who require out-of-home care in the homes of relatives and kin in order to maintain family and community connections and lessen the trauma of separation.	<b>Goal:</b> To exit children from custody – when appropriate – and support them in the care of relatives and kin who have assumed permanent guardianship of child and provide ongoing financial support.
<b>DCS Involvement:</b> DCS does not provide oversight to the family and court does not monitor ongoing.  Children in informal care of relative (not in custody of DCS).	<b>DCS Involvement:</b> DCS does not provide continuing oversight to the family and court does not monitor ongoing.  Children in informal care of relative (not in custody of DCS).	<b>DCS Involvement:</b> DCS and court provide oversight and monitoring.  Children in formal care of the Department (custody of DCS).	<b>DCS Involvement:</b> DCS and court would not remain involved.  Children in formal care of the Department (custody of DCS).
<b>Program Availability:</b> Program piloted 2001-2004 in Upper Cumberland, Davidson, and Shelby.  July 2005 expanded program to Knox, East, Hamilton, and Northwest.  February 2006 program available in Southwest, South Central, Northeast, Southeast, and Mid-Cumberland.	<b>Program Availability:</b> Pilot began in April 2005 in Upper Cumberland, Davidson and Shelby.  Decision will be made in July 1, 2006 as whether or not to expand, after pilot phase.	<b>Program Availability:</b> Statewide. Base service provided by DCS.	<b>Program Availability:</b> Waiver Proposal submitted to DHHS February 2005.  Approval received October 2005.  Demonstration would be initiated in Upper Cumberland, Davidson and Shelby with option to go statewide during course of 5-year demonstration.

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<p><b>Eligibility:</b> Relatives by blood, marriage, or adoption who are caring for children (ages 0-18) informally and reside within county/region of program.</p> <p>In order to receive emergency financial assistance, income cannot exceed 200% of federal poverty guideline and cannot be receiving any other type of kinship subsidy (child only grant excluded).</p>	<p><b>Eligibility:</b> Child at-risk of entering state custody, biological parent not in the home, appropriate relative caregiver identified, relative submit to criminal background check and child abuse/neglect registry, caregiver income does not exceed 200% of federal poverty guideline, child's income meets DHS guidelines, caregiver and child within 5<sup>th</sup> degree of relationship.</p>	<p><b>Eligibility:</b> Children must be in the custody of the state. Caregiver must meet guidelines and requirements of becoming an approved resource in order to receive foster care board payment (<i>DCS Policy 16.4</i>).</p>	<p><b>Eligibility:</b> Children must be in custody of the state and exit into the permanent guardianship of a relative or kin.</p> <p>Children who are already in care and for whom reunification and adoption are not viable options, Placed in state custody for a period of at least nine months, and</p> <p>Placed in an approved relative/ caregiver's home for a period of at least six months</p>
<p><b>Financial Services:</b> No monthly payment is tied to this program for relative caregivers.</p>	<p><b>Financial Services:</b> DCS add enhanced payment of \$160/mo for children 0-11 and \$190/mo for children 12-18, in addition to the DHS child only grant amount.</p>	<p><b>Financial Services:</b> Monthly board payment is provided based on age and needs of child.</p>	<p><b>Financial Services:</b> Monthly subsidy would be provided at the level of foster care board rate. Children in demonstration project would receive health insurance.</p>
<p><b>Support Services:</b> Available through Relative Caregiver Program by private agency staff (i.e. support groups, short term case management, respite/enrichment services, information &amp; referral, educational workshops, youth/teen groups, emergency one-time financial/start-up assistance, whole family enrichment, material assistance</p>	<p><b>Support Services:</b> Available through Relative Caregiver Program by private agency staff (i.e. support groups, short-term case management, respite/recreation, information &amp; referral, educational workshops, children/teen groups. Family not eligible for any financial assistance through RCP.</p>	<p><b>Support Services</b> Family and child are to receive services and support equivalent to any other custodial child and resource family.</p>	<p><b>Support Services:</b> Available through Relative Caregiver Program by private agency staff (i.e. support groups, short-term case management, respite/recreation, information &amp; referral, educational workshops, children/teen groups. Family not eligible for any financial assistance through RCP.</p>